Dear Dave, Jim and Howard, 1/20/77

While I'm waiting for some substitute for salt to melt snow from under the car I want to do somethinking out loud with you. There is no major porblem with the car and the snow. I was just a little careless trying to turn it around on the chance that the next time it would not start and would need jumpers. I forgot my snow tires have had most of their tread worn off and I drove as I used to drive in deep snow. Meanwhile, I do not trust advertising claims and am uncertain of the ecological consequences.

Les called and I've added more to get out.

I spoke to Les about what is on my mind. We'll be talking more about it next week. He expects to wrap up his Africa stories and be able to come here then.

First let me say I have no intention of backing out on my ~~mind~~ so neither you nor anyone else need have any worry on that score. The one reservation I made was foundation support that could be of help now. As of now I do not have it. There is an indefiniteness in the works, but only indefinite.

I do presume that as with anything else people like exclusives.

But I also presume that in a country as large as ours scholarship and access are advanced by duplicate deposits. You may recall that this was in my mind long ago I did speak to you about our small local college, which was very interested and there had been agreement on a cooperative arrangement with it. But the letter from Oregon and the nature of the King material I am getting has made me think about this a bit more.

Oregon has many students who are without the means of travelling. It costs. I'm using it as an illustration. It also must have many able students who come from the poorer families. With the blacks this is almost certain.

So I'd like to be able to expand what I've done, and I can with support and make what in many disciplines, including history, political science, social sciences, law and journalism to name some, can be an archive ~~[illegible]~~ without precedent except in such as Presidential libraries and can be more accessible. There is much I can go for and get that we have never mentioned. I have already drafted an amplification on some for Jim to consider.

Making it more accessible would mean sharing it. The King stuff makes me thing of black colleges, like Amory.

It also makes me belief that unless there is someone who is willing to put up the money to do what should be done now it might be easier to get a number of people, each with his own university in mind to contribute.

Newsday has a journalism foundation of some kind. Les will inquire. It is located on Long Island.

With automatic copying devices duplicating the archive as it is organized is not a great cost. I don t care what the archive is called. It can still be say the Wisconsin archive.

Nee the other thing that I mentioned briefly when you called is that apparently the interest at Reed has not ended only I was not told about it for a combination of reasons that are strange to me but are probably not strage in academe. First the president left for a bigger job. Then the dean of students, who was most anxious for it, left. I did not know it but she and the head of the history department hated each other. Knowing I had been in contact with the dean the department head stayed away from me. But now the dean is gone. The department head spoke to a professorx who is a friend of mine but he and I did not have a chance to talk until just before Xmas. They do not come back to session until Monday.

Earlier this week we were speaking to a local friend, a married woman with kids older than yours. who took her degree at Reed and is not working on her masters, She still has Reed friends. She also was speaking to the department head and was asked about the situation of my files. The dept head got this specific: how much would it cost?

Out friend, who is coming to lunch tomorrow, will speak there next week when her own life permits. After that I'll know more. But for the immediate and for the future Jim and I are nearing resource end again. So I'm concerned. Hastily,